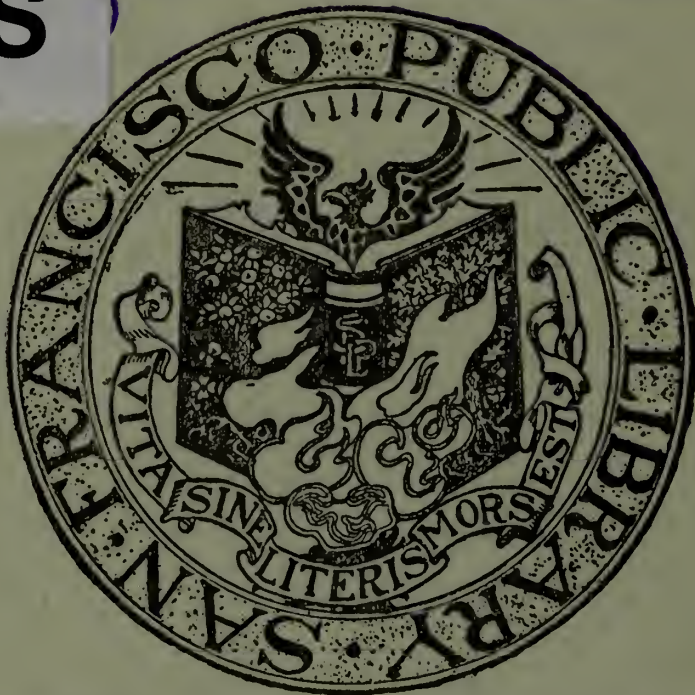




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Coroner's Report

1908 - 1909



DR. THOS. B. W. LELAND

CORONER

San Francisco California

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CORONER'S OFFICE,
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., July 30, 1909.

*To the Honorable Edward R. Taylor, Mayor,
in and for the City and County of San Francisco.*

DEAR SIR:

In compliance with Section 9, Article XVI, of the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco, I herewith submit my Annual Report as Coroner, for the Fiscal Year 1908-1909.

MORGUE.

The morgue has been remodeled, and from the standpoint of cleanliness and ventilation is said to compare favorably with the best morgues in the country. The interior has been treated with waterproof white paint. The floors, of cement, have been properly drained, and white marble stands have been provided. Each slab has been curtained off with white curtains, so that each individual body is in a separate compartment. When relatives call to view a body, no unsightly scenes meet their eyes. Each visitor views simply the body he has come to see. The morgue is airy and well ventilated, is kept scrupulously clean, and is free from odors and flies.

From a sanitary standpoint its condition is excellent.

STABLE.

The stable is kept scrupulously clean, and as free as possible from flies and odors.

AMBULANCE.

We have substituted for the grewsome "dead wagon," and the old-fashioned wooden coffin, a modern ambulance with stretcher. Instead of driving to a residence, hospital, hotel, or office, and carrying into these places a wooden coffin, which attracts a morbid crowd, the deputies drive up in the ambulance, the stretcher is taken into the place, the body is placed upon a rubber sheet on the stretcher, and covered with a white sheet, so that when it is carried out it is to all intent and purpose as though a sick person were being removed. The ambulance has nothing to indicate that it is from the morgue. The words "city ambulance" are on the panel.

I have tried in every possible way, in the handling of bodies of deceased persons, to remove as many of the grewsome features as I could without sacrificing the public interest, and in every possible way I and my staff have endeavored to spare the feelings of the families and friends of deceased persons.

AUTOPSIES.

Dr. John R. Clark, the autopsy surgeon, has been very busy during the year. In all 1019 actual autopsies have been performed. In addition 553 post-mortem examinations have been made.

We have endeavored to leave as many bodies as we could, consistently with duty, in their homes. Investigations have been made and the autopsy surgeon has called at the home whenever possible.

The duties of the autopsy surgeon are multifarious. He not only has to do the work at the morgue, and attend inquests, but has also to follow cases to the Police Courts and Superior Courts, where he is often detained as a witness, sometimes waiting his turn for hours.

I believe that, on account of the amount of work, an assistant autopsy surgeon is necessary, and have made application to the Board of Supervisors this year for the appointment of such an assistant.

I believe that the public would greatly appreciate the work that an assistant autopsy surgeon might do in the line of investigating cases and performing autopsies in homes in cases I am now compelled by force of circumstances to bring to the morgue for autopsy.

The autopsy work has been most satisfactory. The autopsies have been performed in a conscientious and careful manner, and I believe that it would be hard for any case of a criminal nature to pass the autopsy without detection.

The autopsy work is very important from a police standpoint.

TOXICOLOGIST.

I wish to commend the exceedingly conscientious, skillful, scientific and careful manner in which Prof. Frank T. Green, the city toxicologist, has performed his work. He has examined the contents of all stomachs, and all other specimens sent him for analysis, and has assisted the Police Department in suspicious cases that have demanded their attention. I believe that his compensation, which is very small, should be increased, if possible.

CORONER'S DEPUTIES.

The work of the staff has been most satisfactory. The members have been very prompt and painstaking in their work; have often been on duty in excess of their regular hours, and have been very courteous and attentive to the public.

UNDERTAKERS.

It has been my endeavor to treat the undertakers with the utmost courtesy and attention, but there has been no favoritism. My staff and I have studiously avoided recommending any undertaker to the friends or relatives of deceased persons. We have endeavored to expedite their business. Our juries report each day at noon so that all bodies may be promptly viewed, and afterwards cared for by the undertaker.

JURIES.

The juries have been carefully selected from the best citizens in order that satisfactory results might be obtained from their investigations.

These juries have been selected by an officer of the Police Department, detailed for that purpose by the Chief of Police.

During the year 210 juries were impaneled; 2120 citizens having served on them.

The thanks of the city should be given to these men who have given their time and attention to these investigations without compensation. They have cheerfully responded for the duty and have given to it much time and patience.

The recommendations of the juries have in many cases done much to prevent the needless loss of life through carelessness and otherwise during these years of exceeding building activity.

An example of the valuable function of the Coroner's Jury, when properly exercised, may be found in the recommendation of the jury in the case of the young woman whose death was caused by James Edward Cunningham, which brought forcibly to public attention the evils of the notorious "pay-check" system, and which will no doubt bring about a remedy for this widespread evil.

I feel that the careful work of these juries has done much to decrease the number of accidents through carelessness during the past year. Thus the lives of many workmen have been saved, and, on the other hand, the employer has been relieved of the anxiety and responsibility of damage suits following accidents.

INQUESTS.

The inquests are held at the Coroner's Office. During the year 672 inquests have been held, and 553 investigations otherwise made.

It has been the object of the Coroner to hold these inquests in a careful and conscientious manner, so that the best results may be obtained, and, if possible, remedies for evils discovered.

It has been our endeavor to conduct all inquests in a fair and impartial manner, placing the responsibility where responsibility belonged. The reputation of an office for careful investigation does much toward saving the lives of workingmen and others. Contractors are more careful in the erection of their stagings, the providing of riggings, etc., in order to prevent accidents if they feel certain that, in the event of accident, they will be held responsible.

In all accident cases I have made very careful investigations, and whenever I deemed it necessary have recommended to the Board of Supervisors ordinances to prevent the recurrence of such accidents. My activity in this regard has referred particularly to buildings in the course of erection, and to elevator shafts, light wells, etc.

Ordinances have been framed and are being framed to cover these recommendations.

During this year there were but 14 falls in and from buildings, as against 49 the year previous.

The street car accidents have been carefully investigated, and the number of deaths from street cars has diminished 25 per cent. We feel that this result has been brought about to a large extent by placing the responsibility in each case where it belonged.

I believe that street car employes will not be found handling their cars with that degree of recklessness with which they were handled previously; and that they are more courteous and considerate for the safety of the traveling public.

Trouble was had at the beginning of the term with the street car companies in regard to furnishing the names of witnesses taken by motormen and conductors at the time of the occurrence of accidents. In cases of street car accidents the Coroner's Office is handicapped in its investigation, for the person often dies some hours or days after the accident. By this time witnesses have scattered, and it is almost impossible for the Police Department or the Coroner's Office to get the names of eye-witnesses to such accidents. Eye-witnesses of an accident at the time volunteer their names to the conductor or motorman to serve as witnesses, or else are solicited by the conductor or motorman to give their names as witnesses. The Coroner held that he had a right, for the purpose of his investigation, to obtain the names of these witnesses so taken. The companies took the stand that, these names taken by their employes and handed into their law department, were in the nature of "privileged communications," and refused to produce them. The matter was forced by the Coroner, contempt proceedings threatened, with the result that, instead of pushing the matter to an issue before the courts, a compromise was effected. The head of the legal department of the car company agreed to give the names of these witnesses to the Coroner on being subpoenaed, but claimed the act was simply a courtesy to the office, and not conceded as a Coroner's right. We have had no further trouble in obtaining the names of these witnesses.

WITNESSES.

During the year we have examined 4718 witnesses..

In the examination of our witnesses I have endeavored to be as courteous and considerate as possible. In my endeavor to obtain from them correct and concise statements I have often been compelled to approach the lines of severity; but in all cases I have tried to treat them in as courteous a manner as possible, consistent with our duty to obtain the exact facts.

Witnesses have cheerfully responded to summonses, freely giving their time and service as dutiful citizens.

CITY CEMETERY.

During my previous administration I found that the city dead were being buried in different cemeteries owned by private individuals; that the dead were being buried by contractors, and that as the contractors changed the burial place would be changed.

No official city record was being kept of the interments.

Upon our recommendation a cemetery was purchased in San Mateo County, so that all of the city dead would be buried in one cemetery, and a proper record kept of the graves.

In the interim, following the "fire," nothing has been done towards carrying out these plans.

Steps are now being taken to let a contract for the completion of a necessary road into the cemetery; after the completion of which all city dead will be properly buried under city supervision.

NEW MORGUE.

While the Coroner's office and morgue are, at the present time, adequate, the Coroner's offices, as planned by the Coroner and the late City Architect, Mr. Tharp, will give to San Francisco one of the finest and most up-to-date morgues in the world.

The many features in the new morgue, the result of years of experience in the work of this office, will place this department upon a splendid footing.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The following are some of the recommendations by Coroner's juries. In many cases the recommendations, as you will see, are made to prevent other similar accidents, especially with regard to the lives of workmen.

LEWELLYN TOZER—By electric car.

"And we further find that said accident could have been avoided if said car had been properly equipped with side guard rails. We further recommend that the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco take action to compel the United Railroads to equip their cars with side guard rails so that such accidents may be avoided in the future."

JAMES W. DELEHANTY—Fireman on steamer carrying lumber; by fall down passageway through lumber to sleeping quarters.

"And find from the testimony that the officers of the ship are guilty of great negligence in not allowing for a safe and proper passage to said quarters when loading the vessel. The jury recommends that proper precautions be taken in such cases to safeguard the employes."

D. PIACINTINI—By fall through an elevator shaft in building in course of construction.

"That the deceased came to his death by accidentally falling through an elevator shaft from 1st floor to basement of said building, and we recommend that ordinances be drafted covering the protection of employes

and others when working on or in buildings in course of construction or repair, by barricading or covering all wells, light shafts or other openings in floors or platforms in said buildings."

GEORGE CHRISTIE—By fall through unprotected elevator-way.

"That the boy met his death due to the carelessness of the company not having elevator door closed. And we, the jury, do recommend that the Board of Public Works detail or appoint an elevator inspector to see that all elevators are properly enclosed and protected with up-to-date appliances."

ALICE JORDAN—By walking into bay from apron at ferry slip.

"That said Miss Alice Jordan met said death accidentally, and we, the jury, recommend that some safeguards be furnished ferry patrons at ends of each and every slip."

ALFRED IMHAUS—By being knocked off "blind" side of electric car by passenger on "blind" side of passing car.

"We, the jury, recommend that an ordinance be prepared prohibiting the riding on the blind side of all cars, and that the police enforce such ordinance rigidly, and that the Coroner, T. B. W. Leland, call the attention of the proper authorities to this verdict."

JOHN McDONALD—By electric shock.

"That his death was accidental, and find that the company should observe more precaution in having laborers working around high voltage wires."

JOHN NELSON—By fall through lift shaft; building in course of construction.

"That his death was due to a fall through a lift shaft. That the opening was not properly protected. We further recommend that the building laws be so amended as to afford better protection to workingmen about such shafts."

ST. GEORGE HOTEL FIRE—Six lives lost.

"That the fire originated in the building known as the St. George Hotel from unknown causes. And we further recommend a close and rigid inspection of all such buildings where human life is at stake, and suggest the abolishment of these buildings not up to the standard of the fire laws of the City and County of San Francisco."

BERT SHEPHERD—By descending elevator.

"That Bert Shepherd came to his death by carelessness on the part of the superintendent and watchman. We further recommend that hereafter, when buildings are under construction, that the power shall be shut off elevators while men are working in the immediate vicinity of the shaft."

A. A. McDONNELL—By fall through an elevator shaft.

"That the death was accidental and due to a fall through an elevator shaft, and we further find the death was due to negligence of the contractor in failure to provide proper barriers for the elevator shaft."

GUSTAVE LINDQUIST—By illuminating gas.

“A case of accident. The jury also suggests to the Coroner of S. F. to try at the next legislature to have a law to remedy the evil—regulating the placing of combination gas and electric light fixtures in hotels, lodging houses, etc.”

HARRY GRAPES—By elevator.

“That Harry Grapes came to his death through accident, and recommend more attention be paid to inspection of elevators by the proper and responsible authorities.”

CAROLINA BRASCH—By gunshot. *Pay-check evil.*

“From the testimony adduced at this inquest, it appears that the motive for the crime lay in the fact that, at the present time, Gray Brothers, as well as other firms employing ordinary labor, have a pernicious system of paying said labor in checks and drafts at dates remote from the time of rendition of services; the time of payment is ordinarily delayed two and three months and more; and that the poor laborer is compelled to discount his earnings with brokers at rates varying from 20 per cent and more, if he wishes to obtain cash at this time. This paper he is often unable to discount at all and, meanwhile, he is compelled to await the pleasure of these employers until their payday arrives. This evil we find to be a prevailing one throughout the State of California, and we, the jury, therefore recommend that prompt measures be taken to relieve the distress of this great class of our unfortunate fellow citizens who seem to have no one to protect them from these evils.

“We recommend that the state legislature, when it next convenes, promptly enact laws remedying these evils, and that greater powers be given to the state commissioner of labor to investigate these cases and compel the enforcement of said laws when enacted.

“We further appeal to the San Francisco Bar Association, as the most representative body, comprising the highest intelligence of the legal profession, to take an active interest in this matter and frame a law to be presented for passage at the next legislature, and that, in the interim of the meeting of the next legislature, the various county boards of supervisors provide ordinances within their powers to control the existing evil in the counties which they may represent.”

E. A. HILL—An alcoholic. Prisoner at County Jail.

“That the said death was from pneumonia, natural cause, and further recommend that some place should be provided in the new City and County Hospital instead, as at the present in the County Jail in San Francisco, to cover such cases—alcoholics, etc.

“At the present time, alcoholics and those suffering from drug habits, such as morphine, opium, cocaine, etc., men who have never committed crime, but with whom the use of alcohol and these drugs is a disease, are compelled by force of circumstances to be taken up by the police, brought before a magistrate, and sentenced for periods in the County Jail in order to bring about a possible reform.

“They are confined in the County Jail for various periods, according to the frequency of the offense, and become known as ‘jailbirds,’ although.

possibly, never having committed crime. We felt that these unfortunates should not be sent to the County Jail, or be compelled to be identified with the criminal atmosphere surrounding a prison.

“We find in many cases the parents or friends of these unfortunates are willing to pay, in the beginning, for their care in private institutions, but eventually the expense becomes so great, that, no matter what their disposition might be, they are compelled to abandon the effort, and allow the unfortunate to drift only to find himself at last confined to the County Jail, surrounded as before mentioned.

“We believe that either a separate institution should be provided for these cases, or a department in the new City and County Hospital should be established where, in either case, they could have the most scientific treatment for the cure of their habits. With such an institution provided, it is our opinion, there will be a great decrease in crime, for, under the present system, they naturally drift toward the commission of criminal offenses.

“We feel that this class of cases should be dealt with, and treated as humanely and with as great consideration as are our insane, for whom the state so generously provides.

“Many of these cases, if scientifically treated in the early stages, and given the care which they deserve, might be cured of the habit, and not only become useful and respected citizens, but relieve many a poor mother and father of a life of worriment.”

JAMES SHELDON—A stevedore, killed by fall of coal bucket in hold of vessel.

Drawing attention to the apparently dangerous apparatus for the “hoisting of coal from vessels.”

Recommending that more care be taken, and the providing of safe apparatus to guard against future similar accidents.

JEAN TISNERAT—Killed in the wrecking of the City Hall.

Calling attention to gross negligence on the part of the contractor for not taking proper precautions for the protection of workmen who were working on weakened floors.

NICK THEODORALOS—Killed by falling floor in wrecking of City Hall.

Finding the contractor at fault for not having provided more safe means to avoid the accident.

“That he came to his death by the giving way of the floor in a portion of the ruins of the City Hall on McAllister St. side, and we further find that the contractor is at fault for not having provided more safe means to avoid the accident, and in view of a preceding similar accident in which a floor had given way, the laborers should have been specially warned as to the danger of possible weak floors.”

ROBERT F. L. MATHIAS—A conductor of the United Railroads Co.

“That his death was accidental, caused by coming in contact with a trolley pole. We further recommend that United Railroads take such action to avoid further accidents both to their employes and traveling public, either by removal of pole or that portion of the track.”

A. BLESSING—Prisoner at the County Jail. Recommending in the interest of humanity, that a hospital be established at the County Jail and resident physician appointed.

“That deceased in a fit of temporary insanity set fire to the bed clothing which he had saturated with coal oil. We further find, that the practice of allowing prisoners the use of coal oil and oil lamps in cells should be abolished, and that, in the interest of humanity, a hospital be established at the County Jail and a resident physician appointed.”

ADOLPH MOHR—A cement worker, killed in elevator shaft by descending elevator weights.

“That the said Adolph Mohr came to his death from being crushed by an elevator weight, accidentally, at 612 Howard St., and we further recommend that before any elevator be accepted for running, that all elevator weights be enclosed upon all sides.”

JAMES DELAHANTY—Boy killed in freight elevator.

“Came to his death by violating the rules in operating or riding on elevator. We further recommend that we exonerate Bolte and Braden from all blame pertaining to this accident. We also recommend that all elevators used for freight and passengers should be conducted by a regular operator.”

FRANK MILLER—A lineman. Killed by a fall from an electric pole—due to breaking of insulator pin.

“That said death was accidental, caused by the position he was standing in at the moment when the defective wooden pin of the insulator broke. We also suggest that the department of electricity investigate the best methods of wiring where heavy strains are encountered, and draft and have ordinances accordingly.”

CHARLES HOVEY—Foreman of construction. Killed by fall down an elevator shaft.

“That he came to his death from an accidental fall from a platform of a material elevator. We, the jury, recommend that the attention of the Board of Public Works be called to the necessity of further safeguarding these elevators and that ordinances be drawn and passed covering this particular class of construction work.”

ROY CURL—Young man drowned in “Stadium” swimming tank, Golden Gate Park.

“That said death was accidental. And recommend that the Park Commissioners provide for a person to be placed in charge of this public tank, whose duties shall be to act as a life-saver—rescuing anyone who is taken with the cramps, or is in any danger of becoming drowned. Also, that life lines, life buoys, etc., be furnished and prompt cognizance be taken of the dangers of this public swimming place.”

AL LANG—An ironworker. Killed by descending elevator weights.

“He came to his death by elevator accident. We recommend that proper safeguards be placed on all elevator weights under construction.”

COMMUNICATIONS.

The following are some of the communications from and to the Coroner referring to verdicts by Coroner's juries, and the necessity of legislation for the protection of the public, and the safeguarding of lives.

Hon. Michael Casey,
Pres. Board of Public Works.

DEAR SIR: As you are aware, during the great building activity now going on, many workmen are losing their lives on the various buildings that are being constructed. Often, owing to the lack of technical knowledge of building rules and regulations, it is very hard for jurymen or the Coroner or his deputies to exactly understand the cause and responsibility for said accidents. We are therefore compelled at times to require the professional knowledge of those who are familiar with the construction of buildings and the rules and laws governing same.

During my past administrations your board kindly consented to furnish us with a building inspector to assist us in the investigation of these cases: This has been done by telephoning to your headquarters for such assistance. We would like occasionally to call upon you for such assistance, and will promise not to call upon you unless the case is one of such a nature as to require expert assistance. In case we do call upon your department we would like to get prompt recognition as often the evidence is removed very shortly after the accident occurs, and we do not like to delay building progress pending investigation.

If your honorable board will continue to give us the desired assistance, I would be glad to have you issue the necessary orders with the proper heads of departments, so that, by telephoning, we may have someone promptly detailed to make the investigation with our deputy.

Thanking you in advance for your courtesy in the matter. I remain,

Very truly yours,

THOS. B. W. LELAND,
Coroner.

The following communication referring to the deaths of Frank Miller and Charles Hovey, was sent to *Building Committee, Hon. Board of Supervisors*, and to *Hon. Board of Public Works*:

Enclosed please find verdicts of Coroner's juries, with recommendations. We trust that you will give these recommendations your serious consideration, as they are the result of serious investigation by representative citizens serving as jurors. The desire is, if possible, to prevent by ordinance future similar accidents occurring.

Very truly yours,

THOS. B. W. LELAND,
Coroner.

To the Building Committee, Hon. Board of Supervisors; also sent to The Hon. Board of Public Works:

Enclosed please find verdict of Coroner's jury in the case of Al Lang, an ironworker, who was killed while placing iron strips in elevator shaft of Security Building, Halleck and Sansome streets.

It appeared from the evidence that the elevator weights were unenclosed on the floor (first floor) of the building where Lang was working.

It also appeared from the testimony of your building inspector, that there is no law or ordinance at the present time governing the enclosing of elevator counter-weights; but that it is a custom among builders to enclose them: That there was nothing in this stage of the erection of this building to have prevented their being enclosed, and that, if said weights had been enclosed, this man would not have lost his life.

Our jury believes that ordinances should be drafted requiring the proper enclosing of elevator weights for the protection of workmen employed on these buildings.

Trusting that you will give this matter your attention to the end that no more lives may be sacrificed in a manner which it seems may be easily prevented, I remain,

Yours very truly,

THOS. B. W. LELAND,

Coroner.

*To the Hon. Board of Park Commissioners,
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.*

GENTLEMEN: Enclosed please find copy of verdict rendered by Coroner's jury in the matter of the death of Roy Curl: Said death occurring June 16th, in Stadium swimming tank, Golden Gate Park.

Your attention is particularly directed to recommendation by the jury in the matter of attendant and equipment for the purpose of saving life following possible accident.

Sincerely yours,

THOS. B. W. LELAND,

Coroner.

The following communication was forwarded to the *Hon. Building Trades Council, San Francisco, Cal.*, April 16, 1908; also to *The Hon. Labor Council, San Francisco, Cal.*, April 16, 1908:

GENTLEMEN: Enclosed please find copies of verdicts of our juries in two cases recently investigated by us. They contain recommendations which I feel it is my duty to draw to your attention, to those most interested, so that practical results may obtain; hence my object in forwarding to you these recommendations of our juries, who are representative citizens of this city.

The result of our investigation in these cases is, that lives of workingmen and others are not properly safeguarded in the matter of the enclosure or barricading of elevator wells, light wells, and other openings in floors of buildings under construction, and it is our opinion that, while the work may be interfered with to some extent, by the placing of proper barricades or safeguards, the main result will be accomplished, in that

many lives of workmen may be saved during the coming years of exceeding activity in the building line.

Trusting that you gentlemen, who are most interested and have the most knowledge of these affairs, will give it your attention, so that proper ordinances may be drafted and recommended covering these dangers, I remain,

Very truly yours,

THOS. B. W. LELAND, *Coroner*.

To the foregoing letter the San Francisco Labor Council replied as follows:

SAN FRANCISCO LABOR COUNCIL,
Secretary's Office, San Francisco Labor Temple,
316 Fourteenth Street.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., April 27, 1908.

Dr. T. B. W. Leland,

*Coroner, City and County of San Francisco,
363 Fell Street, City.*

DEAR SIR: At the last regular meeting of the council your communication relative to the recommendations of the juries in the cases of deaths and accidents in buildings was read, and the president and secretary were instructed to co-operate with any committee that might be appointed to obtain the necessary legislation to remedy the existing danger.

We thank you very much for your interest in this matter and assure you it is very rare to find a public official as solicitous for the interests of the workers.

With warmest personal regards, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

ANDREW J. GALLAGHER,

Secretary S. F. Labor Council.

NEW BUILDING LAWS.

The building committee of the Board of Supervisors, consisting of Supervisors Sanderson, Broderick and Payot, has appointed the following advisory committee:

P. H. SHAUGHNESSY, Chief Engineer, Fire Department.

WILLIAM F. WILSON, Member Board of Health.

FRANCIS H. PORTER, Inspector, Fire Underwriters.

JOHN P. HORGAN, Chief Building Inspector.

J. D. GALLOWAY.

NATHANIEL BLAISDELL, Architect.

RICHARD H. MATHEWSON, Kittle Construction Co.

MORRIS BRUCE (Secretary), Architect, Pissis & Co.

This said advisory committee to act with them in the recompiling and enacting of the building laws of the city.

It is expected that they will shortly finish their labors, and that our *new* ordinances will become effective in the near future, and that the coming year will see a great decrease in the number of accidents and deaths.

Mr. Curtis H. Lindley,
President San Francisco Bar Association,
604 Mills Building, City.

DEAR SIR: Enclosed please find Coroner's verdict with recommendation in the case of Carolina Brasch, deceased.

When considering the best means of getting a bill before the next legislature covering the remedying of the evil of the notorious "pay-check" system, which seems to be state wide, the Coroner, in questioning witnesses in this case, asked as to the best means of bringing about legislation in the matter. In questioning legislators and others in regard to a remedy, he met with the suggestion from State Senator Burnett, that the matter be referred to the San Francisco Bar Association as the body best fitted to draw up such a bill. This idea met with the approval of the Coroner and jury, and hence our recommendation in the matter.

It was our endeavor during the course of this investigation, to not only bring out the evidence of the state wide existence of this evil, but to set in motion a remedy for the evil. Our idea being that, after the first agitation and publicity is over, that those matters sometimes drag, and the good of the publicity passes away without immediate active steps being taken in the matter.

In this case we believe that this evil should be met promptly, and that results should come from it. Therefore, in referring the matter to your honorable association, I beg that, in your judgment, you may give the matter such immediate attention that, when the next legislature convenes, a bill may be prepared and plan laid for its passage and adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. B. W. LELAND,
Coroner.

Reply of Mr. Curtis H. Lindley to the above:

Hon. Thos. B. W. Leland,
363 Fell Street, San Francisco, Cal.

MY DEAR DR. LELAND: I have your favor of the 31st instant, together with a copy of Coroner's verdict in the case of Carolina Brasch.

It will afford me great pleasure to bring this matter before the association, and have it promptly referred to the proper section or committee for action.

There is not the slightest doubt but what the bar association will take the matter up and make some recommendation as to a remedy for the evil referred to in the Coroner's verdict.

I will be pleased to advise you whenever definite action is taken.

Yours very truly,

CURTIS H. LINDLEY.

STATISTICAL REPORT—YEAR 1908-1909.

DEATHS INVESTIGATED.

Misadventure and violence..	270	Number of autopsies.....	1,019
Suicides	219	Number of countersigns.....	553
Homicides	44	Number of inquests.....	672
Criminal abortion	3		
Self-inflicted abortion	3	Number of juries impaneled.	210
Undetermined: Drowning 14		Number of jurors serving...	2,120
Foetus... 3	17	Number of witnesses exam-	
Natural cause deaths.....	1,016	ined	4,718
<hr/>			
Total number of cases...	1,572		

TABLE OF SUICIDES.

Nativity.

Australia	3	Japan	5
Austria	3	Korea	1
Canada	4	Norway	2
China	4	Poland	2
Denmark	1	Porto Rico	1
England	4	Russia	3
Finland	1	Scotland	7
France	7	Servia	1
Germany	33	Switzerland	4
Holland	2	Sweden	4
Hungaria	1	United States	89
Ireland	7	Unknown	20
Isle of Man.....	1		
Italy	9	Total.....	219

Sex.

Male	187
Female	32
Total.....	219

Color.

White	206
Black	2
Yellow	11
Total.....	219

Causes.

Business reverses	3	Jealousy	1
Bigamy	1	Love	11
Death of husband.....	1	Melancholia	2
Death of wife.....	2	Motherhood, lack of.....	1
Death of brother	1	Murder, following of	1
Death of sister	1	Nervous Depression	1
Domestic troubles	9	Overwork	1
Drugs, use of	1	Poverty	1
Employment, lack of.....	16	Sickness	41
Financial	20	Unknown	43
Gambling, race track.....	2		
Insanity	29	Total.....	219
Intemperance	30		

TABLE OF SUICIDES (Continued).

Condition.

Married	103	Divorced	1
Single	66	Unknown	15
Widow	4		
Widower	10	Total.....	219

Means Used.

Alcohol	1	Hanging	15
Ammonia and iodine	1	Illuminating gas	29
Arsenic	1	Jumping from building.....	2
Bichloride mercury	4	Morphine	3
Carbolic acid	36	Opium	1
Chloroform	2	Strychnine	6
Cyanide potassium	14	Sulphuric acid	1
Cutting instrument	16		
Drowning	12	Total.....	219
Firearms	73		

Occupation.

Accountant	1	Hotel keeper	2
Art glass worker.....	1	House cleaner	4
Bag cutter	1	Housewife	22
Baker	1	Insurance clerk	1
Bartender	7	Insurance solicitor	1
Belt lacer	1	Iron worker	1
Blacksmith	3	Janitor	3
Bookkeeper	2	Laborer	18
Brewer	1	Laundry worker	1
Butcher	1	Letter carrier	1
Car builder	1	Lithographer	1
Cabinet maker	1	Livery	1
Carpet cleaner	1	Longshoreman	1
Carpenter	7	Machinist	3
Cement worker	3	Manager	2
Cigar maker	1	Marine engineer	1
Clerk	6	Marine fireman	1
Commercial drummer	2	Mariner	1
Collector	1	Master mariner	1
Conductor	1	Marble cutter	1
Cook	5	Merchant	4
Courtesan	2	Metal polisher	1
Dyer	1	Millhand	1
Electrician	3	Miner	6
Engineer	1	None	2
Firemen	3	Oyster opener	1
Gardener	2	Painter	3
Glass blower	1	Peddler	2
Grocer	1	Porter	1
Hack driver	1	Postal clerk	1
Horse trainer	1	Printer	1
Hospital steward	1	Poultry raiser	1

TABLE OF SUICIDES (Continued).

Occupation.

Rancher	2	Teamster	3
Real estate	3	Telephone operator	1
Restaurateur	1	Theatricals	1
Rigger	1	Ticket seller	1
Sailor	3	Tinsmith	1
Saloon keeper	6	Trunk maker	1
School teacher	1	Undertaker	1
Sheet metal worker	1	Upholsterer	1
Ship carpenter	1	Unknown	15
Shoemaker	1	Waiter	4
Servant	1	Watchman	1
Soldier	3	Wire worker	1
Stableman	3		
Student	2	Total.....	219
Tailor	4		

MISADVENTURE AND NEGLIGENCE.

Automobile	6
Anaesthesia, during operation.....	4
Burns, by ignition of clothing—Coal oil.....	1
Grate fire	1
Matches	3
Burns, burning of dwelling.....	6
Burns, bursting of steam pipe.....	1
Burns, fall into hot water tank.....	1
Blast, premature	1
Boat, crushed between boat and wharf.....	1
Cars, cable	3
Cars, electric	59
Cars, steam	6
Electrocution, live wire	6
Excavation, buried in	1
Drowning	22
Elevator, crushed by	11
Falls, in and from buildings.....	14
Falls from cliffs	2
Fall from gangplank	1
Falls from hayloft	2
Falls from ladder	2
Fall from pile driver	1
Falls from porch	2
Falls from staging	2
Falls from wagon	6
Fall in garbage chute	1
Fall in hallway	1
Fall of hoisting bucket	1
Fall of ice box	1
Fall of painter's scaffold	6
Fall of rocks in quarry	2
Fall of wall	1
Falls on sidewalk	4

MISADVENTURE AND NEGLIGENCE (Continued).

Falls out of window	5
Falls down stairs	6
Firearms	3
Horse, kicked by	1
Horse, runaway	1
Illuminating gas	37
Machinery	3
Poison, by alcohol	2
Poison, by carbolic acid	3
Poison, by opium	1
Poison, by headache powders	2
Rope breaking	1
Strangulation, between chair and door.....	1
Strangulation, infant in sheets	1
Strangulation, infant in rope	1
Suffocation, by smoke	1
Suffocation, by fumigation in ship	1
Surgical operation	1
Wagon, run over by	4
Wrecking of buildings	4
Vaccination	1
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Total.....	270

HOMICIDES.

Criminal—		Ice pick (stab)	1
Blow, bodily	1	Strychnine	1
Blow, by revolver	1	Strangulation	1
Blow, by pitchfork	1	<hr/>	
Blow, by shovel	2	Total criminal homicides	36
Firearms	26	Justifiable	5
Knife	4	Accidental	1

ABORTION.

Criminal	3	Self-induced	3
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EXPENSE, CORONER'S OFFICE, FISCAL YEAR 1908-1909.

Salaries	\$21,280.00
Rent	688.00
Photographing of bodies.....	100.00
Recovery of bodies from bay.....	380.00
Keeping of horses (four).....	610.84
Shoeing of horses.....	240.00
Harness and repairing.....	172.30
Wagon repairing	169.10
Incidental expense	916.21
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Total \$24,566.45

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. B. W. LELAND,
Coroner.

March 7

